

PROPOSED COUNCIL STUDY ISSUEFor Calendar Year: 2004

Continuing

New X

Previous Year (below line/defer)

Issue: Design Standards for Bike Lanes Adjacent to On-street Parking**Lead Department:** Public Works**General Plan Element or Sub-Element:** Land Use and Transportation**1. What are the key elements of the issue? What precipitated it?**

The Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC) would like the City of Sunnyvale to adopt the VTA Bicycle Technical Guidelines' recommendation for bike lane design adjacent to on-street parking, in place of the Caltrans standard. The BPAC believes the Caltrans standard does not adequately account for the safety of bicyclists.

The VTA guidance is different than the Caltrans standards in that the Caltrans standard supports narrower bike lanes adjacent to on-street parking. The ramifications of changing the City's adopted standard may be significant, unjustified, and may significantly impair the City's ability to implement its bike improvement strategy. City staff currently use the VTA Guidelines as intended, which is as a "best practice" and not an engineering standard. In fact, the VTA Guidelines conflict with City practice on parking stall widths (City practice is more generous than VTA) so effectually City practice is largely consistent with the VTA Guidelines. However, Staff believes that a change to create a standard could contribute significantly to the cost of constructing bike facilities, and would require that the recommendations on future bike lanes improvements be revisited, as they are based on the Caltrans Standards. In addition, staff believes that before the standard is changed the issue should be researched to determine if there is evidence indicating that the wider bike lanes improves safety and provides any additional benefit. There may be significant liability issues associated with adoption of a new standard. To staff's knowledge, available information on the safety of wider than standard bike lane widths near parking is largely anecdotal. Staff believes this requires study, and that the City's study issue process is an appropriate channel for this issue.

2. How does this relate to the General Plan or existing City Policy?

Land Use and Transportation Element - Goal C3.5.4, Maximize the provision of bicycle and pedestrian facilities

Sunnyvale Bike Plan - Goal BP.B - Provide for and maintain a safe and effective

system of bikeways and shared roadway facilities suitable for bicycles.

3. Origin of issue:

Councilmember: _____

General Plan: _____

Staff: _____

BOARD or COMMISSION

Arts		Housing & Human Svcs
Bldg. Code of Appeals		Library
BPAC	X	Parks & Rec.
CCAB		Personnel
Heritage & Preservation		Planning
Board / Commission Ranking/Comment:		

BPAC **Board / Commission ranked** 3 **of** 13

4. Due date for Continuing issues (if known): _____

5. Multiple Year Project? **No** **Expected Year of Completion** 2004

6. Estimated work hours for completion of the study issue.

(a) Estimated work hours from the lead department 100

(b) Estimated work hours from consultant(s): 60

(c) Estimated work hours from the City Attorney's Office: 40

(d) List any other department(s) and number of work hours:

Department(s): Finance 20

Total Estimated Hours: 220

7. Expected participation involved in the study issue process?

(a) Does Council need to approve a work plan? **No**

(b) Does this issue require review by a Board/Commission?

Yes

If so, which Board/Commission? BPAC

(c) Is a Council Study Session anticipated?

No

(d) What is the public participation process?

BPAC and City Council public hearings

8. Estimated Fiscal Impact:

Cost of Study	<u>\$20,000</u>
Capital Budget Costs	<u>\$</u>
New Annual Operating Costs	<u>\$</u>
New Revenues or Savings	<u>\$</u>
10 Year RAP Total	<u>\$ 20,000</u>

9. Staff Recommendation

Recommended for Study

Against Study

X No Recommendation

Explain below staff's recommendation if "for" or "against" study. Department director should also note the relative importance of this study to other major projects that the department is currently working on or that are soon to begin, and the impact on existing services/priorities.

reviewed by

Department Director

Date

approved by

City Manager

Date